# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2768
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005
CANCER MEDICINES
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

**Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Novartis a Multinational Company from Switzerland has got the monopoly through patent on Enetib Messilet a cancer medicine ;

(b) if so, its likely impact on Indian pharmaceutical companies engaged in making the said medicine prior the such patenting;

(c)the price of said medicine made by Indian companies and Novartis separately ;

(d) whether the cancer patient have to buy the medicine costly to provisions in patent laws; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government to provide cancer medicines at cheaper prices ?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS & MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b): On 10.11.2003 Exclusive Marketing Right(EMR) was granted for the product B-crystaliine form of Imatinib Mesylete in its doses forms (Glivec capsules) to M/s Novartis by the Controller General of Patents for a period of 5 years or till the date of grant/rejection of patent. However, the matter is sub-judice, and some of the Indian pharmaceutical companies are continuing with the production of this drug.

(c): The price of one 100 mg Glivac Capsule manufactured by M/s. Novartis is being sold at Rs. 940.00. The same medicine manufactured by the following 4 Indian companies is being sold at the following price, as per available information:

| S.NO | Company`s name | Brand Name | Price per Caps. In Rs. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | M/s CIPLA | Imatib Caps.100 mg. | 85.00 |
| 2. | M/s Sun Pharma | Imalek Caps.100 mg. | 85.00 |
| 3. | M/s.Natco | Veenat 100 mg. | 90.00 |
| 4 | M/s. Ranbaxy | Zoleta Caps. | 100.00 |

(d) The patent law in the country provides for a strong and comprehensive set of safeguards including provisions to ensure availability of medicines at reasonable prices through compulsory licensing. Many of the drugs already in the Indian market, including those in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003, are off-patent and their pricing would not get affected by the new patent regime.

(e): Health being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to provide treatment to the cancer patients.The Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance for setting up radiotherapy units in medical colleges/hospitals for providing treatment facilities and recurring grants to most of the recognized regional cancer centers in states for procurement of equipment and for research. The Central Government has set up a National Illness Assistance Fund under Department of Health for providing assistance to poor families for major life threatening diseases.The Central Government is also contributing to the State Illness Assistance Funds in various states for providing treatment to the needy

and poor patients under the Rashtriya Aarogya Nidihi. Some of the anti-cancer drugs are provided free in the Government institutions. Besides the Central Government employees are covered under CGHS for the purchase of drugs required.